

Amersham Festival Society

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2021

Meeting held on Zoom on Monday 1st November at 8.00 pm

1. Apologies for absence

Jane Partridge thanked all the Friends who had logged on to attend the Zoom AGM. Apologies were received from Gwenda McInnes, Clare Cooke, Judith Palfreman, Hilary Thomas, Patrick Hudgell, and Daphne Brooke.

2. Minutes of the 2020 AGM (previously circulated by email link)

Jonathan Pegler proposed that the minutes be adopted. This was seconded by Graham Bowler and confirmed by a show of hands. The minutes were accepted as correct and signed as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising not on the agenda

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Annual Report (previously circulated by email link)

Jane Partridge invited questions from the Friends but there were none.

5. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts to June 30th 2021 (previously circulated by email link)

Jane Partridge invited questions regarding the accounts but there were none. She thanked Jonathan Pegler for all his work on the accounts. Gill Hudgell proposed that the accounts be adopted and this was seconded by Tony Burkhardt. The Friends then voted with a show of hands to approve the accounts.

Richard Bolton will continue as our Independent Examiner. Jonathan Pegler proposed that he be re-appointed and this was seconded by Graham Bowler. Jonathan expressed his thanks to Richard for his excellent work.

6. Artistic Director's Report (previously circulated by email link)

Iain Ledingham thanked Jane and the committee for their wonderful support. It is quite a long time since we stopped having concerts. After the concert at St James in February 2020 everything came to a standstill. It is a great pleasure to be re-starting again. Iain thoroughly enjoyed the chamber music concert in October and the other wind players and Jennifer Stinton on the flute are greatly looking forward to the concert on November 12th. He said that it had taken a lot of work and planning to make the concerts as Covid safe as possible. He invited questions from the Friends but there were none. Jane reiterated how good it was to have concerts again and said that the audience's appreciation was palpable at the October concert.

7. Friends' Activities and Bursary Report (previously circulated by email link)

The Friends' scheme has been managed by Christine Norton and the Bursary scheme by Gill Walley. There were no questions from the Friends. The committee will shortly be discussing the Bursary scheme.

8. Election of Officers and Committee for 2020/2021

Tony Burkhardt and Steve Wilcock have been committee members for many years and are now stepping down. Tony was a previous Treasurer and Jane thanked him for being such an enthusiastic committee member. Steve managed the Bursary scheme for many years and also looked after the advertising, which required going round shops collecting advertisements. We are very grateful to him for all that he has done. Tony and Steve have been invited to the Friends' reception in January so that they can be thanked properly. Heather Pells, our Events manager is also relinquishing her role. Her contribution has been crucial – she is the one who makes the concerts happen. She has kindly agreed to continue for the October and November concerts. We will have to manage without Heather from January, but two people have answered the advertisement which was sent out. Jane will be meeting with them shortly

and we are hoping that they will be able to take on at least some of Heather's responsibilities. She thanked Heather for her excellent contribution.

Jane explained that the committee needed to be re-elected en bloc and we also have six trustees, a third of whom have to be re-appointed each year, in rotation. This year it is the turn of Jonathan Pegler and Lesley Mathieson. Lesley was actually appointed as a trustee during the course of this year and we are very grateful to her for taking on this role. Lynda Weiss proposed that the committee be elected en bloc and this was seconded by Monica Sado. This was confirmed by a show of hands. Ann Whaley proposed the re-appointment of the trustees and this was seconded by Monica.

9. Discussion and questions from the floor

Jane invited questions from the floor but there were none.

10. Any other business

Jane repeated how good it is to get back to live music. Now that we are beginning to hold concerts again the new format of having two concerts of an hour each on the same day has been a good thing to do. We are hopeful that the January concert for the New Year will revert to the normal arrangement. She looks forward to welcoming the Friends to the November 12th concert.

Lynda Weiss thanked Jane Partridge for keeping everything going over the past 18 months.

The meeting closed at 8.22.